

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application; all claims were rejected in the present Office Action. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Application, International Publication Number WO 93/21715 (Wong) and Claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,074,435 (Rojestal) and U.S. Patent Application No. 5,421,017 (Scholz).

Figures 1, 2, 3A and 3B were objected to as not being labeled "Prior Art." As requested by the Examiner, Figures 1, 2, 3A, and 3B were amended to add the legend --Prior Art--. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Additionally, Claims 1, 3, and 6 are cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 2, 4, and 5 have been amended. Specifically, Claims 2, 3, and 5 were amended to include a clause "wherein a message of an updated version has at least one additional information field as compared with a message of a previous version". This recitation distinguishes the inventive claims from prior art. In addition, the elements of Claim 6 have been added to claim 5.

The present invention solves problems identified by the objects of the invention described in the summary section of the inventive specification. Specifically, it is an object of the present invention to provide a method for enabling subsystems using different versions of a software program to be able to communicate with each other. It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for enabling a subsystem to be able to detect a software version of another subsystem, using a message having a field indicating a software version.

Regarding independent Claims 2 and 4, contrary to Wong, the target and source subsystems of Claims 2 and 4 of the present application do not use the version identifier to discard any messages received from a subsystem executing a different version of software. Instead, Claims 2 and 4 of the present application describe and claim always processing the message, but omitting any field not recognized by a different version of software and even swapping software versions in order to process the received message.

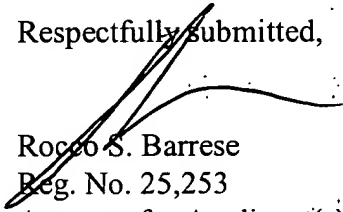
Wong does not teach or describe "processing, in the target subsystem, the received message excluding the added information field, if the source current running version value is not equivalent to the target current running version value" recited in Claims 2 and 4. Based on at least the foregoing amendments and arguments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2 and 4 is respectfully requested.

Similarly regarding independent Claim 5, neither Wong, Rojestal, Scholz, nor any combination thereof teach or describe "processing in the target subsystem, all fields of the received message using the updated version of the software, if the source current running version value is equivalent to a target current running version value of the target subsystem; and processing, in the target subsystem, fields of the received message known to the previous version of the software, if the source current running version value is not equivalent to the target current running version value of the target subsystem" recited in amended Claim 5. Based on at least the foregoing amendments and arguments, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Based on the amendments and arguments presented above with respect to Claims 2, 4 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 4 and 5 overcome the rejections. Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 2, 4, and 5, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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